



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

March 22, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

The Meeting called to order, as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: Richard Aronson, Helen Bechard, John Cherry, John Cooke, Ed Moore, Cheryl Hill, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Mary Burke. Public: Sandy Chaleski.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the February meeting were submitted. A motion by RAronson to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by GSmith. Passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

eMail: RECEIVED -

SENT - New grant available for shuttered venues in Connecticut to former grant recipients.

Mail:

Phone:

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Events SPORADIC Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7PP

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
- Danbury Museums
 - The outdoor exhibit panels are installed. Stop by and have a look at these colorful images from your favorite fair.
- Palace Theater Danbury
- Galleries
 - Gallery at Still River Editions
 - @287 287 Main St. Danbury
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
- Accessible Art
 - City Hall,
 - CityCenter Danbury,
 - Hodge Insurance,
 - Filosa Convalescent/Hancock Hall,
 - Bethel Public Library,
- Danbury Library

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK

2021 APR 29 A 11:18

BY: [Signature]

Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com
EVENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESUME DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC.



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street

Danbury, Connecticut 06810

203 797 4508

Coordinator's Report

1. Make Music Day
 - a. CT State Office of the Arts is going to be providing grant funding for 2021 similar to past years, and I'll be sending out further information on this in the coming weeks.
 - b. The matching artist to venue site is available to be written
 - c. Danbury Music Centre is signing on and John Fazio Jr. is assisting planning
 - d. JCooke asked the Coordinator to notify Derek Piotr of the Make Music Day project so that he might participate. (He will not be in Danbury in June.)
 - e. Notices sent to Sherry Winston and to be sent to Jill Handcock
2. Poetry contest school coordinator
 - a. No reply from Abbott Tech
 - b. Dr. Scrimgeour selected Judge.
 - c. What will be the awards day? Third thursday of May... Thursday May 20 at 6:30 P.M.?
3. Conversations started with Danbury High and Abbott Tech about scholarships
4. Worked with our intern to produce his website
5. I reached out to Ivino Brothers about shirts but they didn't reply.
 - a. I asked for prices for a Hooded sweat shirt, sweat shirt and polo. I will follow up.
6. 2020 - 2021 budget
 - a. Notification of funds allocated but not spent sent to Finance

Appeals from Community groups:

Musicals at Richter - Robert Bria, Executive Director

The primary need for the Summer 2021 season is Marketing, to be sure that audiences know Musicals at Richter is still producing. The current website is outdated and not easily maintained. A more Professional look is required. Overall MAR is in need of a rebranding.

Advertising needs a new focus, perhaps a radio campaign, as well as Facebook and some other traditional venues.

The traditional audience member is aging and there will be a need to find younger patrons.

Also after storm damage a new stage and lighting trusses are needed.

Last year's grant was spent on royalties, is not refundable but is being held for future productions.

GSmith: Will you be looking for Danbury companies as a vendor for the website design? RBria: Yes.

Old Business

1. University Intern project - Report from Jonathan Wencek

The website is ready to be published from the Commission's website

Danburyarts.com/danbury-multimedia-arts-gallery/

So far contributors are finding out about by word-of-mouth. Social media blasts will follow.

Poetry contest school coordinators will spread the words well.

For judges JWencek will contact WCSU department heads. Proposed \$200 stipend for each judge.

HCenter: Are there any submission requests yet? JWencek: No, but there has been interest from students at WCSU. Thank you for your efforts so far and to HBechard for advising.



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street

Danbury, Connecticut 06810

203 797 4508

2. JCooke will formulate a budget for Make Music Day so funds can be reserved.
 - a. Some advertising for Music Day but-not go overboard.
 - b. Not sure how people in the greater Danbury area scope out events that are taking place.
 - c. The News Times is useless (down county news) local radio? Posters/flyers placed at key locations. JFazio will assist with distributing flyers.
 - d. Making use of the City Hall advertising board (maybe we could advertise for free) Need to check out who controls the board at City Hall? Coordinator: Taylor O'Brien.
 - e. With Covid still giving us grief - we are still limited in what we can accomplish.

3. Make Music Day

JFazio has made some flyer samples. The Coordinator will send designs to each Commissioner.

- a. Allocate (\$100) for flyers to promote Make Music Day signup website. To be distributed by John Fazio Jr.

MOVED by HBechard to allocate \$100 for printing handout flyers for Make Music Day. seconded by JCooke.

DISCUSSION: JCooke will look to obtain the best price, perhaps below the stated amount.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

4. Stipend for Intern project judges

MOVED by HBechard that funds in the proposed budget for printing be diverted to judge's stipends not to exceed \$1,200. Seconded by JCooke.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

Action on Grant Requests:

Musicals at Richter requests \$10,650. Moved by GSmith to grant \$8,500 seconded by HBechard.

DISCUSSION: RARonson: What was last year's grant? Answer \$8,500. Marketing is important.

HCenter: MAR, like many producers, are in poor financial condition due to COVID-19.

HBechard: These are extraordinary times. Danbury has not been supportive of theaters. In the past, there have been many failures. MAR has lasted 34 years and needs to be supported. This amount is not more than last year.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

New Business

1. Review of Coordinator - GSmith

The Commission went into executive session as a Committee of the Whole. Following the session

Commissioners report that the Coordinator is doing a good job. Moved by ??? to increase the monthly payment to the coordinator by \$200 to \$1,100 per month beginning in the next fiscal year. Seconded by ??? Passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business

None

Motion to adjourn at 7:45

Made by HBechard. Passed by Unanimous vote.



CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

NOTE:

Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office had set up a video conference call which started at 6:00 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public connected to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87113777368?pwd=QnlulL1IFUmYrMGnKaE1KNkY3YWZSUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 1377 7368 Passcode: 630809

One tap mobile +19292056099,,87113777368#,,,,*630809# US (New York)

The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.

Upcoming events CURTAILED Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B

•